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26 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director of Operations
Project Director of Materiel
Project Director of Administration
Project Contracting Officer

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : USAF U-2 Follow-On Program

REFERENCE : SAPC-7240, dated 11 July 1956

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DATE: 6/11/81 REVIEWER: 008632

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize in the briefest form arrangements discussed tentatively with Brigadier General Fisher, Colonel Proctor, and Colonel Herren for the handling of the U-2 program of the Air Force. The conversations occurred on 11 July and were partly covered by [] in the referenced memorandum. 25X1

2. The principal features of the proposed arrangements would be as follows:

a. The training of Air Force personnel in suppliers' plants, principally Lockheed, will be initiated and carried forward in its initial stages as presently planned.

b. As the first three Air Force U-2 aircraft are delivered in the autumn of 1956, they will be moved to [] and the Air Force training program will be initiated there. 25X1

c. During this phase, the Air Force personnel will be attached to the 4070th Support Wing, SAC, which will continue to be a tenant on the [] The Base will be organized as at present. 25X1

d. On or about 1 January 1957, a new Air Force organization probably to be known as the Air Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Provisional (Fifth) will be activated at McDill Air Force Base near Tampa, Florida.

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This designation will be the cover designation for the SAC unit which will take over the U-2 aircraft.

e. Soon after the activation of this unit at McDill, the aircraft and most of the personnel of the 4070th Support Wing will be transferred physically to McDill and administratively to the new unit.

25X1 f. Initially [] will be the supply depot for the USAF program. About the time of the activation of the new unit, however, spares will be moved to a depot in Southeastern United States and thereafter the supply line will run through there.

25X1 g. All Air Force personnel who will be in this program during the [] phase will receive Agency clearances. Those assigned to the program after the activation of the new unit at McDill will have Air Force clearances under standards prescribed by the Agency as already agreed.

25X1 h. [] will remain under control of the Agency to be disposed of when and as we desire.

3. These arrangements seem to me to have many virtues, the main one of which is that we are left with complete flexibility about [] 25X1 One additional feature of the proposal is that the Air Force will be willing to carry on at McDill any training or development that we might desire to have continued there after we have closed down [] 25X1

25X1 4. In conversation with Colonel McConnell and Lt. Colonel Voyles at [] certain questions were raised about the early phase of the above outlined plan. In particular, it was pointed out that it will not be easy for Lockheed to provide maintenance support when the USAF aircraft first arrives at [] without some interference with their support of AQUATONE activities. It was also pointed out that the transfer of further development from [] to some regular base (perhaps Edwards Air Force Base) as soon as the deployment of Detachment C has been completed would make it easier for Lockheed to support these activities. These questions reflect a belief that an early closing of [] and the transfer of further development work to a more conventional location is desirable. This view obviously raises in turn a question as to the manner in which security could be maintained around our development work if it were transferred to a regular Air Force base.

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5. Next week I would like to receive the comments of the addressees on this plan so that we will be prepared to discuss it with the Air Force at an appropriate time. In particular, I believe the whole matter of the maintenance of security after the activation of an Air Force unit at a regular Air Force base deserves the most careful consideration. I would appreciate the comments and recommendations of the Project Security Officer on this whole problem.

SIGNED

RICHARD M. BISELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:gjg (23 July 56)

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